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Page 1 of 1

Docket No.: ASMJP.090AUS

CUSTOMER NO. 20995

Applicant : Michael A. Todd et al.
 App. No. : 09/993,024
 Filed : November 13, 2001
 For : LOW-K DIELECTRIC MATERIALS AND PROCESSES
 Examiner : Alexander G. Ghyka
 Group Art Unit : 2812

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October 4, 2004

Joseph J. Mallon
 Joseph J. Mallon, Reg. No. 39,287

Transmitted herewith for filing and consideration in the above-referenced application are the following items:

(X) Non-Final Amendment in 2 pages.

FILING FEES:

FEE CALCULATION				
FEE TYPE		FEE CODE	CALCULATION	TOTAL
Total Claims minus 20; or Previously Paid	15 - 20 = 0	1202 (\$18)	0 x 18 =	\$0
Independent minus 3; or Previously Paid	4 - 5 = 0	1201 (\$88)	0 x 88 =	\$0
SUB TOTAL				\$0
The present application qualifies for Small Entity status under 37 CFR § 1.27. Fee reduced by 1/2.				(\$0)
TOTAL FEE DUE				\$0

(X) Please charge the total fees due in the amount of \$0 to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

(X) Total pages in transmission: 3

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 11-1410.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

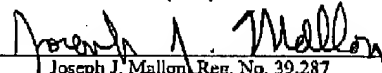
Applicant : Todd, Michael A., et al.
Appl. No. : 09/993,024
Filed : November 13, 2001
For : LOW-K DIELECTRIC
MATERIALS AND PROCESSES
Examiner : Ghyka, Alexander G.
Group Art Unit : 2812

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Joseph J. Mallon, Reg. No. 39,287

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants have received the Office Action mailed July 7, 2004 and respectfully request entry of this Response to that Office Action in the file of the above-captioned patent application.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in this application, Claim 16 having been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. In the event that the Office finds Claims 1-15 to be allowable, Applicants authorize the Office to cancel Claim 16 by Examiner's Amendment.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form submitted with the IDS filed on January 11, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6 and 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirafuji et al., "PE-CVD of Fluorocarbon/SiO Composite Thin Films Using C₄F₈ and HMDSO," Plasmas and Polymers 4(1) 1999, 57-75 ("Shirafuji"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Shirafuji does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of limitations defined in Claims 1-6 and 11-15, including introducing a gas comprised of a linear fluoroalkane having four or more carbon atoms to a chamber. Shirafuji discloses the use of C_4F_8 , a cyclic fluoroalkane, not a linear fluoroalkane as claimed. The cyclic nature of the C_4F_8 disclosed by Shirafuji is confirmed in the last line of the second paragraph at page 58 of Shirafuji by the specific reference to C_4F_8 as octafluorocyclobutane. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the statement by the Office that Claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition to the reasons for allowability indicated by the Office, Applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 7-10 recite a combination of limitations that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, early notification of which would be appreciated. The Office is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 4, 2004

By: Joseph J. Mallon

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